

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Several police who served with the 6th Volkspolizei (VP) Bereitschaft in Gotha (M 51/J 06) in May 1950 said that ten VP Bereitschaften, each with a strength of about 1,000 men, were stationed in Thuringia. They were under the Berlin Hauptverwaltung fuer Ausbildung (Main Administration for Training) (HVA), commanded by Chefinspekteur Heinz Hoffmann.
2. The 6th VP Bereitschaft in Gotha is composed of a headquarters, one Sonderabteilung, and three 250-man Kommandos.
3. Officers of the unit included Oberpolizeierrat Oppel, (fnu), CO of the Bereitschaft and formerly a laborer in a factory, about 40 years old, an active SED member; Oberpolizeierrat Sherov, (fnu), Soviet liaison officer; Oberpolizeikommissar Tek, (fnu), CO of 1st Kommando; Oberpolizeikommissar Schmidt, (fnu), CO of 2d Kommando; Oberpolizeikommissar Winkler, (fnu), CO of 3rd Kommando; Polizeirat Just, (fnu), and Oberpolizeikommissar Hellbach, (fnu), political instructors.
4. Training consisted of political indoctrination during the morning, while afternoon instruction consisted of infantry field training, tactical instruction, arms training with model 08 and 38 pistols, model 98K carbines, machine guns of models 08/15, 34 and 44, and Soviet 120 to 150-mm mortars.

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5. Four VP infantry units were in the Gotha Flak Kaserne, on the road to Ohrdruf, on 23 May 1950. Three other VP units previously quartered there had been transferred to the Berlin area.
6. Five VP units were quartered in the Alte Infanterie Kaserne on Loewenstrasse. Their training with tanks and AT guns, at the Ohrdruf troop training grounds was supervised by Soviet officers.
7. Two VP units were quartered in the Waltershausen brewery. Most of these police were older men, assigned to traffic control.

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